

"Bring Our HEARTS Out Into the Light"

John 3:14-21

Hearts

God's Heart, Your Heart, Our Hearts

Devotion & Sermon Series
for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

4th Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org



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LENT LECTIONARY

This service carries the themes of the Lent Lectionary—the selected readings for this season in the Church Year, as we gather in sorrow over our sin, recognize our need for a Savior, and anticipate His salvation accomplished through the cross and resurrection.

Opening Hymn God Loved the World So That He Gave

LSB 571 sts. 1–4



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.



Invocation and Call to Worship

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

Hebrews 12:2

C: the author and perfecter of our faith,

P: who for the joy that was set before him

C: endured the cross, despising the shame,

P: and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

C: Now is the time of God's favor; now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2b

P: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

Psalms 85:4, 4:6, 37:6, 113:7

C: that the light of Your face may shine on us.

P: May Your justice shine like the sun;

C: and may the poor be lifted up.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

1 Peter 5:6-11, 1:3-5

P: Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God

so that at the proper time he may exalt you.

Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober-minded; be watchful.

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion,
seeking someone to devour.

Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering
are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

C: We humble ourselves before the Lord.

**We confess that we have sinned against heaven and earth,
against the Lord, His Creation, and one another.**

Please come to us, Lord, and forgive. Amen.

P: We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1 John 2:1

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

Mark 10:33

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalms 32:1

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

P: We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C: He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people. Amen.

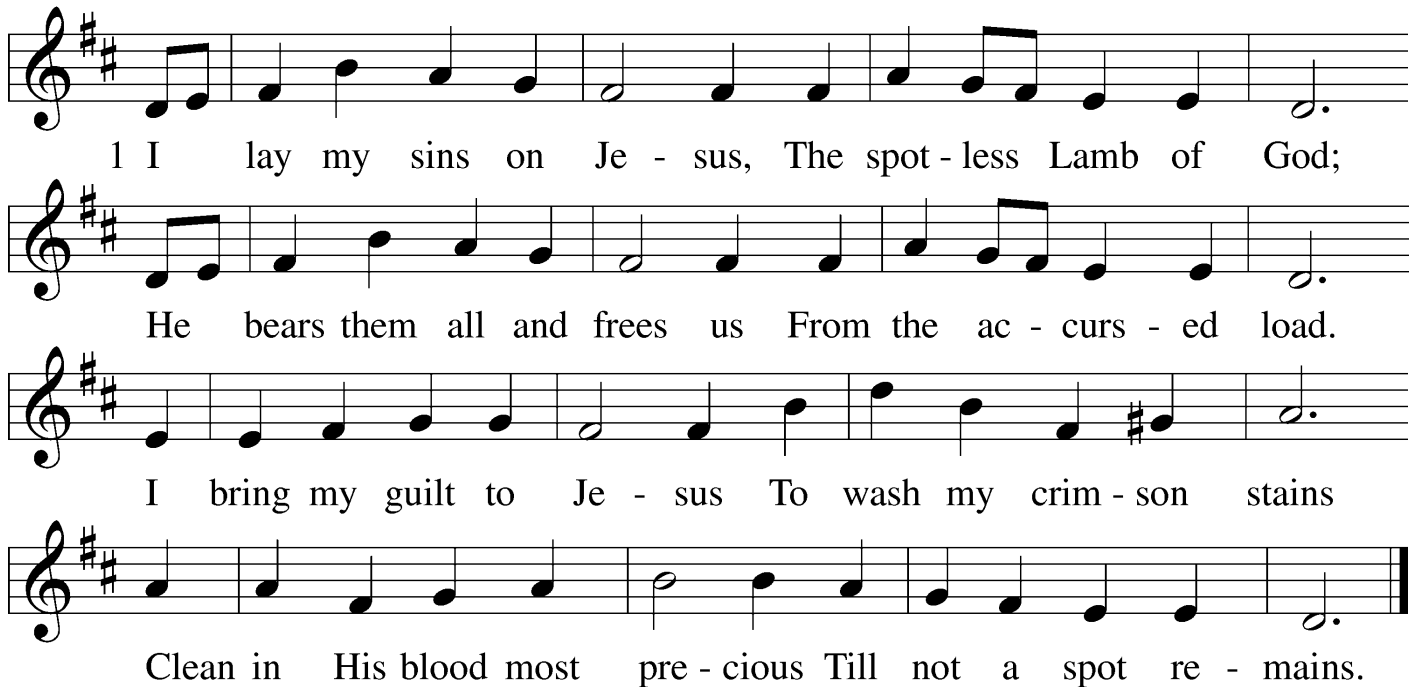
Silence for meditation on our need for Christ's forgiveness.

P: At the command of the Lord, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy God the Father provided a ram as a substitute. We give thanks to the Father that on Calvary He did not spare His only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. The God of all grace has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, and He Himself restores, confirms, strengthens, and establishes you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. According to his great mercy, he has caused you to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

Verse of Praise

LSB 606 st. 1



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

Old Testament Reading**Numbers 21:4–9(ESV)**

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

Epistle (New Testament Letter)**Ephesians 2:1–10(ESV)**

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem**Jesus Paid It All****Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

I hear the Savior say, "They strength indeed is small is small;
Child of weakness watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find, Thy power and Thine alone;
Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone.
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

And when before the throne, I stand in Him complete;
"Jesus died my soul to save," My lips shall still repeat.
Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

Holy Gospel**John 3:14–21(ESV)**

¹⁴[Jesus said:] "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

John 4:23a; 3:16

P: The hour is coming, and is now here,

C: *when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.*

P: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,

C: *that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: *He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people. Amen.*

Song of the Day

In Christ Alone



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, — my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, ful-ness of God in help - less
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ — in



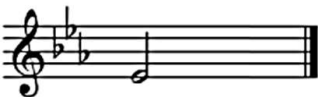
song; This Cor-ner- stone, this sol - id Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought — and
babe! This gift of love and right-eous- ness, scorned by the ones He came — to
slain; Then, burst-ing forth in glo-rious Day, up from the grave He rose — a -
me; From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com-ands my des - ti -



storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv-ings
save. Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
-gain! And as He stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
-ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His



cease. My Com-fort- er, my All in All, here in the love of Christ — I
-fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ — I
me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the pre-cious blood — of
hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ — I'll



stand.
live.
Christ.
stand!

Sermon

“Bring Our HEARTS Out Into the Light”

John 3:14-21

Offertory

Create in Me

LSB 192



♩ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

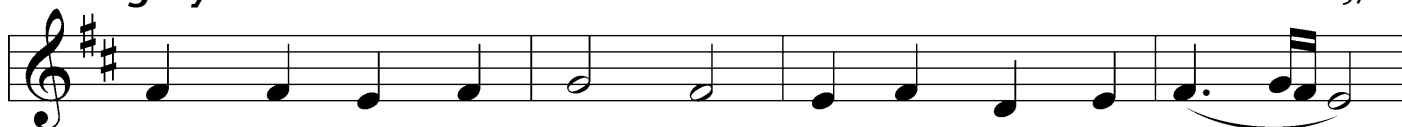
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

There Is a Redeemer

LSB 971



1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.
There I'll serve my King for-ev - er In that ho - ly place.

Refrain



Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,



And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.

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Announcements

Acknowledgments

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.
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Cover heart drawings by our youth:

Alex, Amanda, Audrey, Emma, Emmy (Preschool), Gabriel, Jacob,
JD, Jude, Kaylee, Kelsi, Kyli, Leah, Mae, Owen, and Saruni

COOL Annual Plant Sale

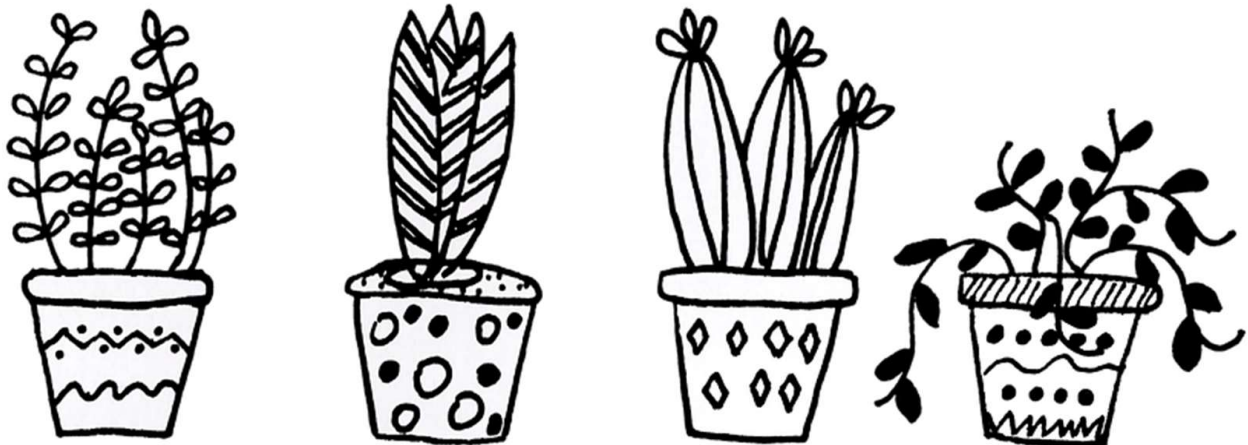
Orders with payment are due **March 29th**

Now is the time to order your plants from the **22nd Annual COOL Plant Sale**. This is one of COOL's biggest fundraisers to help support the Food Pantry and Transitional Housing.

The pickup date is Saturday, **May 8 from 12 Noon to 2:30 p.m. here at Bethel.**

You can pick up an order form during in-person worship/communion or contact the Bethel office to have it emailed to you. Please drop off the completed order forms, with payment, during in-person worship/communion or with the church office.

Contact Cindy Daluga (Cindy@BethelGurnee.org) with any questions.





EASTER LILIES

**Order Deadline:
Sunday, March 21**



As a donation to Bethel Lutheran Church I would like _____ Easter lily plant(s) at \$11.00 each to be placed in our worship areas for Easter services on **April 4**.

Name and telephone number [please print]

Total amount enclosed: \$_____

Checks can be written to “Bethel Lutheran Church” and place check (or cash) with the form in an envelope, marked “Easter lilies” and you can drop the envelope off during in-person worship/communion or with the church office.

You can return this form from the printed bulletin or print a copy of the form from the electronic bulletin and include it in the envelope with your donation.

Remember to take your lily plant(s) on Easter Sunday or, if needed, make arrangements with the office to pick them up later in the week.



UPDATED WORSHIP SCHEDULE

For all in-person worship services a reservation will be required.

Note that all March 14th seats were filled with those who responded “in-person yes” on the recent survey.

A link to reserve future in-person seats will be emailed early next week.

Wednesday, March 10 – Lenten Midweek

(Lenten Midweek Devotion with liturgy, reading, devotion by Pastor)

Lenten Midweek Devotion (Zoom) – 6:30-7:00PM

Sunday, March 14

Livestream Worship - 9AM

In-Person Worship* (In Gym) – 9AM **(all seats filled)**

Wednesday, March 17 – Lenten Midweek

(Lenten Midweek Devotion with liturgy, reading, devotion by Pastor)

Lenten Midweek Devotion (Zoom) – 6:30-7:00PM

Sunday, March 21

Livestream Worship - 9AM

In-Person Worship* (In Gym w/Communion) – 9AM

In-Person Communion for those who watched the Livestream – 10 to 11AM

In-Person Worship* (In Gym w/Communion) – 11AM

Wednesday, March 24 – Lenten Midweek

(Lenten Midweek Devotion with liturgy, reading, devotion by Pastor)

Lenten Midweek Devotion (Zoom) – 6:30-7:00PM

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday

Livestream Worship - 9AM

In-Person Worship* (In Gym) – 9AM

In-Person Worship* (In Gym) – 11AM

Contact the office if you have any questions about the schedule. Ushers, Readers, and various other volunteers are always needed for in-person worship and communion. If you are interested in volunteering for one of those roles, please contact the office at office@bethelgurnee.org.

*For in-person worship and/or communion in the gym, seating and/or communion will be physically distanced with masks required. For in-person worship there will be Live liturgy, readings, sermon, and prayers along with recorded hymns & music.